

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

City of El Paso de Robles City Hall Parking Lot Project FEMA-1505-DR-CA

The City of El Paso de Robles (City) has applied for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, for assistance with the repair to pre-disaster condition of the damaged parking lot that serves the City Hall and library, and assistance with the long-term disposal of spring water that surfaced after the San Simeon Earthquake of December 2003, a presidentially-declared disaster (FEMA-1505-DR-CA). FEMA is proposing to fund the project under the Public Assistance Program. The project area is located at the intersection of 10th and Spring Streets in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California.

As a result of the earthquake, a hot spring surfaced in the parking lot, and spring water flowed southeast across the parking lot onto 10th Street. The damaged pavement and uncontrolled water source present a safety hazard and a liability for the City, the parking lot remains unusable, and the water emanating from the rupture causes a smell of sulfur. The City has identified the need to repair the parking lot and dispose of the spring water surfacing from the parking lot rupture as one of its highest priorities. The Proposed Action has three components. First, the City would collect the geothermal spring water emanating from the rupture. The City would excavate an area around the rupture, backfill the area with drainage material, install a perforated pipe collection system within the drainage material, and dig a manhole to receive the spring water collected by the pipes. A pipe conveyance system would be constructed to transport the spring water to the City Water Yard. Second, the City would construct an underground percolation system at the City Water Yard consisting of a series of trenches filled with PVC drain pipe embedded in crushed rock or gravel. The spring water would be discharged to the underflow of the Salinas River after passing through permeable (sandy) material that is expected to act as a natural filter. Third, the City would resurface and repair the damaged City Hall parking lot to its pre-disaster condition. Repair would primarily consist of asphalt interspersed with concrete curbs or interlocking pavers. Landscaping would be consistent with the existing plant palette in the parking lot.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Paso Robles City Hall Parking Lot Project (June 2007) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The SEA tiers from the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Typical Recurring Actions Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Rain, and Wind Disasters in California (December 2003) as Proposed by FEMA. The PEA and SEA are available online at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm>.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the PEA and SEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the Proposed Action. This Finding of No Significant Impact serves as the final notice for compliance with Executive Order 11998. Information required by 44 CFR Part 9.12(e) is provided in the SEA. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.


Alessandro Amaglio
Region IX Environmental Officer

6/27/07
Date